



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 12, 2019

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director *KI*  
Campaign Spending Commission

**SUBJECT: Testimony on H.B. No. 1279, H.D. 1, Relating to the Oversight of Election Activities**

Friday, March 15, 2019  
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 016

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) supports this bill but requests a budget adjustment to provide a higher trust fund ceiling in an election year (i.e., FY 21).

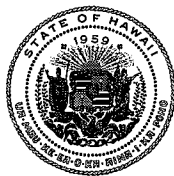
Section 3 sets forth the Commission’s base general fund appropriations and trust fund ceilings for FY 20 and FY 21. The general fund appropriation represents the base amount to run Commission operations.<sup>1</sup> The trust fund ceiling of \$343,732 in FY 20 should be satisfactory, but we respectfully recommend a trust fund increase from \$343,732 to \$700,000 in FY 21 since it is an election year. Although the Commission has not gone over the present budget ceiling of \$308,062 in the past, the Commission needs to have the ability to provide enough public funding to meet the State Constitutional mandate to distribute public funding to all eligible candidates (see Article II, Section 5, under the State of Hawaii Constitution). Public funding distributions are unpredictable. It is unknown who will qualify for public funds, and thus, the Commission must allocate maximum amounts to be able to provide funding to qualified candidates. In the event that the need for public funding exceeds the trust fund ceiling while there is sufficient funding in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund (which is currently at \$906,071 as of December 31, 2018), rejecting requests for public funds to qualified candidates due to the ceiling restriction

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<sup>1</sup> Notably, HB 1350 sets forth the Commission’s additional requests for general fund appropriations for FY 20 (an increase of \$29,000) and FY 21 (an increase of \$22,000) to run operations.

could result in legal actions against the State. Further, although we appreciate the fact that we can request the Governor to lift this ceiling through the Department of Budget and Finance, our law provides that public funds “shall be distributed to the candidate within twenty days from the date that the candidate’s initial application and qualifying contribution statement is approved by the commission.” HRS §11-431. This time frame will make the request to lift the ceiling challenging.

The Commission respectfully requests that this Committee pass this measure with a budget adjustment for a higher trust fund ceiling in FY 21.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782  
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SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1279, HD 1  
RELATING TO THE OVERSIGHT OF ELECTION ACTIVITIES**

March 15, 2019

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1279, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for the fiscal biennium 2019-2021 operating budget of the Campaign Spending Commission and the Office of Elections under the purview of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Judiciary.

The mission of the Office of Elections is to provide secure, accessible, and convenient election services to all citizens statewide. We are responsible for conducting candidate filing, printing ballots, operating the polling places, counting and tabulating ballots, as well as maximizing voter registration. Our office also develops education programs for the public about voting and elections, including a media campaign, presentations, and attending community events. Additionally, our office houses and supports the Statewide Voter Registration System and Online Voter Registration System.

Our biennium operating budget appropriates money for personal services such as staffing, and other current expenses for facility operations and the costs of conducting the 2020 Elections. In our personal service budget, we have 21 permanent staff, of which 3 are vacant, and 17 temporary seasonal positions which are hired for the election year. Under other current expenses, we fund our operating expenses such as facility and vehicle maintenance and office equipment leases, as well as costs associated with the conduct of the elections. Our election costs include supplies and equipment for the counting centers and polling places; travel for trainings, tests, and audits; printing of public notices;

delivery and collection of ballots and materials; and the vote counting system contract.

Since elections are conducted in even-numbered years, our operating budget varies by fiscal year. The tables below summarize our budgeted expenses for fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21, as well as the positions within the Office of Elections.

**Fiscal Year 2019-20 Operating Budget**

In HB 1356, Relating to the Office of Elections Operating Budget, we are requesting a budget ceiling adjustment of \$789,598 in fiscal year 2019-20 to fund election expenses, specifically the vote counting system contract.

	<b>Base</b>	<b>Adjusted</b>
<i>Personal Services</i>		
Permanent Staff Salaries	1,060,781	1,060,781
<i>Other Current Expenses</i>		
Operating Expenses	133,875	133,875
2020 Election Expenses	1,140,361	1,140,361
Vote Counting System	818,902	1,608,500
<b>State General Funds Total</b>	<b>3,153,919</b>	<b>3,943,517</b>
<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>99,694</b>	<b>99,694</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$3,253,613</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,043,211</u></b>

**Fiscal Year 2020-21 Operating Budget**

	<b>Base</b>
<i>Personal Services</i>	
Permanent Staff Salaries	1,063,209
Election Staff & Volunteers	1,155,329
<i>Other Current Expenses</i>	
Operating Expenses	139,925
2020 Election Expenses	797,284
<b>State General Funds Total</b>	<b>3,155,747</b>
<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>99,694</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$3,255,441</u></b>

**Positions**

<b>Position</b>	<b>MOF</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Status</b>
Account Clerk III	A	1.0	
Chief Election Officer	A	1.0	
Election Assistant (CCOP)	A	0.50	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Election Assistant (POPS)	A	0.50	
Election Assistant (POPS)	A	0.50	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Election Assistant (POPS)	A	0.50	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Election Clerk	A	0.50	
Election Clerk	A	0.50	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Election Clerk	A	0.21	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Election Clerk	A	0.50	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Election Clerk (P/T)	A	0.21	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Election Logistics Worker	A	1.0	
Election Logistics Worker	A	0.42	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Election Logistics Worker	A	0.42	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Election Logistics Worker	A	0.42	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Election Logistics Worker	A	0.42	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Election Specialist (BOPS)	A	0.50	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Election Specialist (ESS)	A	1.0	
General Counsel	A	1.0	
General Professional IV	A	1.0	
General Professional IV	A	1.0	
General Professional V (BOPS)	A	1.0	
General Professional V (CCOP)	A	1.0	
General Professional V (ESS)	A	1.0	
General Professional V (POPS)	A	1.0	Vacant, Temporary Assignment
General Professional V (VS)	A	1.0	Vacant, Recruiting Applicants
Hotline Operator (VS)	A	0.21	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Hotline Operator (VS)	A	0.21	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Hotline Operator (VS)	A	0.21	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Hotline Operator (VS)	A	0.21	Vacant, Election Year Hire
Info Technology Band A	A	1.0	Vacant, Interviewing Applicants
Info Technology Band B	A	1.0	
Info Technology Band C	A	1.0	
Office Assistant III	A	1.0	

<b>Position</b>	<b>MOF</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Status</b>
Office Assistant III	A	1.0	
Secretary III	A	1.0	
Warehouse Supervisor	A	1.0	
Election Assistant (POPS)	N	0.50	
Election Info Specialist	N	1.0	

1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1279, HD